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HELMMSLEY
Rural District Council.

THE
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF
HELMMSLEY

FOR THE
Year ending 31st December, 1949

To the Helmsley Rural District Council

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Combined District, for the year ending December 31st, 1949.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of Helmsley Union	...	...	...	67,705 acres
Resident Population in 1948	...	...	...	5,760
Dwellings structurally separate	...	...	...	1,529
Council Houses in occupation	...	...	...	168
Rateable Value (full)	...	...	...	£18,823
Penny Rate (sum represented)	...	...	...	£75
Parishes in Area	...	...	...	27

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The restrictions in food and clothing remain the same as before. There is still some complaint throughout the Area by Housewives and others in the scarcity of Domestic assistance. On the Farms work is being carried on with some difficulty. Here, as elsewhere, the Agricultural Industry employs a greater amount of mechanical means in addition to the local labour available. Farm work on the whole has been completed, and conditions of labour are to some extent improving, though still short of normal requirement. The call-up of young men for Army Service affects unfavourably the Labour Market in our limited area. The restriction of the supply of Petrol has also been a hindrance; but that is a condition common to all outside work.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—Total 76		Male	Female
Legitimate	...	31	39
Illegitimate	...	4	2
Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population	13.2		
Still Births Total 2		Male	Female
Legitimate	...	1	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	26.3		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 0			
Deaths—All Causes—62.			
Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident population	10.7		

SECTION B.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The work done by the ambulances has been carried out with efficiency. There has been a suggestion to have the ambulances housed at Pickering instead of Kirbymoorside. That would be a great inconvenience for our District and would be detrimental to the removal of cases, especially in the winter. The present system works well and there has been no complaint of any delay in conveying patients to the Hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is wholly carried out by the District Nurses who have invariably done their work with efficiency and despatch.

SECTION C.

Sanitation in the District is by no means easy to carry out on account of the delay in building new sewage works in Helmsley and Ampleforth. These are in need of being brought up to modern requirements. A new scheme is being carried out by the Council's Engineer, but the work has been delayed for one cause or another, and although the Ministry of Health has been notified of the urgent necessity of dealing with the matter the condition remains unsatisfactory. In his report the Sanitary Officer discusses the present unsatisfactory position of the sanitary arrangements, and indicates in detail how this may be remedied. All new houses are now supplied with water-closets and lavatories, and the disposal of sewage is quite impossible until the whole system is overhauled and made serviceable. Already there is considerable complaint and some alarm at the growing danger of unsanitary dwellings. Every endeavour has been made to cope with nuisances as they arise, and hitherto the public health has not been allowed to deteriorate. But the time has arrived when the sanitation of the whole district must be put on a sound basis.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The Rural Housing Survey has now been completed. This has been going on throughout the year, and the result is given in some detail by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in his Report—attached to this. It deals with 837 houses, and 364 houses remain to be examined. It is estimated that about 200 houses remain unfit for human habitation. These are incapable of repair. The Housing Act, which became law during last year for the improvement of a housing standard, is likely to be a costly undertaking, and on account of the increased price of building the rental of the houses built with all necessary additions may be beyond the means of the

very class most in need of them. The problem of providing suitable houses at a figure within the means of the ordinary working-class family will be extremely difficult to solve. Your Council has now 168 houses in its area. About 66 new houses will be ready for occupation early in 1950. These are given in detail in the Sanitary Inspectors' Report.

SECTION E. **MILK SUPPLY.**

Milk is still rationed in the area, and the supply is regulated as before. Nursing mothers and children are favourably considered, and there is no lack of a suitable, if restricted, supply, on considerations of Health. There has been several additions to the pasteurisation of milk in the Farms and with milk-sellers.

NUTRITION.

The supply of nutritious food is adequate to the upkeep of public health. There has been a notable increase of nutritious food in the villages, and there is no lowering of health on account of insufficient or unsuitable food.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The restriction still continues and the supply is of good quality—if not quite normal in quantity. . All classes of the community remain in a good condition of health, and children especially are well catered for, and look well under the Regimen they are provided with.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water has been sufficient throughout the year for the maintenance of Health. Sproxton still depends during summer months, for water carried from Helmsley. It will remain more or less unsatisfactory until the new scheme is in operation. The consideration of a full supply for all parts of the Helmsley District is discussed by the Sanitary Officer. Harome and Wombledon were well supplied during the summer and there were few complaints of discoloured water. All the sources of supply were regularly visited. It is likely that Helmsley will have a new water service in 1950.

SECTION F. **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

				Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Measles	...	...	...	111	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	17	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	9	0	0
Undulant Fever	...	...	...	1	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE AREA.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiration	1	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity	1	0
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0
Cancer of Breast	0	1
Cancer of other sites	6	6
Intracranial Vascular Disease	6	6
Heart Diseases	14	11
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1
Bronchitis	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0
Nephritis	1	0
Road Traffic Accident	1	0
Other violent causes	0	2
All other causes	1	0
	—	—
Total	35	27

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution was observed in any of these, although they were constantly patrolled.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools were regularly visited and inspected, and they all remained free from any serious diseases. Measles and Whooping Cough were reported during the earlier months of the year; but they were all of a mild character, and there were no deaths due to these epidemics. None of the schools had to be closed during the year for illness, and the health of the district remained exceptionally good. Cancer was again the most serious of our diseases. Heart disease was a greater cause of death than in recent years.

CONCLUSION.

I have much pleasure in recording my thanks to your Council and its officers for their invariable courtesy and assistance in carrying out my duties. I wish also to express my gratitude, for support and assistance, to my Medical Colleagues.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER C. BLAIR, M.D.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

—O—

STAFF.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

F. W. Stoney, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A,

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

W. C. Ranson, A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A,

Clerk—Miss E. M. Dixon.

Staff for Refuse Collection, Housing Repairs and General Duties.
G. Bean (Foreman), A. Ware (Mason), E. W. Dunning, J. Colley
and J. B. Handley.

Sewage Disposal Plant Attendants.

B. Baker and G. Garbutt.

Part-time Water Bailiffs.

A. E. Anderson, W. A. Beecroft and E. Beecroft

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND SURVEYOR.**

For the year ending 31st December, 1949.

Council Offices,
Helmsley, York.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Helmsley Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor's Department of your Council for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

The total number of visits of inspection made throughout the year for all purposes was 2497 which are summarised as follows:—

GENERAL SANITATION—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	94
Complaints Investigated			...	...	...	70
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	43
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	34
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	6

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	51
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	15
Salvage	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	191
					—
					268

WATER SUPPLIES—

Piethorne	...	...	...	...	96
Ampleforth	...	...	...	...	17
Helmsley	...	...	...	...	16
Gilling East	...	...	...	...	3
Cawton	...	...	...	...	23
Lousy Lane	...	...	...	...	8
Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	...	2
Newton East and Leysthorpe	...	...	...	...	3
Old Byland and Wass	...	...	...	...	5
Stonegrave and Nunnington	...	...	...	...	8
Sproxton	...	...	...	...	98
Scawton and Cold Kirby	...	...	...	...	64
R.A.F. Wombledon	...	...	...	...	24
Complaints investigated re water supplies	...	...	...	...	40
					—
					407

SEWAGE WORKS—

Helmsley	...	...	...	...	12
Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	...	11
Ampleforth	...	...	...	...	15
Gilling East	...	...	...	...	7
Harome	...	...	...	...	25
Pockley	...	...	...	...	2
Beadlam	...	...	...	...	3
					—
					75

HOUSING—

No. of Houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	279
No. of visits necessary to above Houses	...	...	...	...	288
No. of visits to Squatters	...	...	...	...	49
No. of visits to Council Houses	...	...	...	...	285
No. of visits to Applicants for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	136
					—
					1,037

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

Visits re Disinfection	...	...	...	...	Nil
Enquiries re above	...	...	...	...	Nil
					—
					Nil

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION—

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	7
Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	40
Visits to Butchers Shops	...	...	...	48
Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	35
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	7
Market Inspection	...	...	...	22
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	7
				—
				166

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL—

Visits re application for licences	59
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BUILDING BYELAWS—

No. of visits re building work in progress	...	198
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PETROLEUM SPIRIT REGULATIONS—

Visits to establishments re storage	9
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Total 2,497

HOUSING.**RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.**

Work on this survey has proceeded steadily throughout the year, 275 houses being examined in detail and plans prepared in each case.

The result of the survey to date is as follows:—

	Dealt with in 1949	Previously dealt with	Total
1. Satisfactory in all respects	... 49	102	113
2. Minor defects	... 98	127	225
3. Major repairs or structural alterations	... 122	256	378
4. Suitable for reconditioning	... 11	37	48
5. Unfit	... 44	77	121
		—	—
		275	562
			837

The survey has now been completed in the following parishes:—Helmsley L.A. and O.L.A., Ampleforth, Harome, Beadlam Pockley, Laskill Pasture, Bilsdale West Side, Hawnby, Dale Town, Murton, Rievaulx and Old Byland, with the exception of a very few houses.

As the houses noted for recondition are already in other categories, their number is not included in the main totals.

On the basis of 1,201 houses in the area which come within the range of the present survey, 364 houses remain to be examined, 837 having been dealt with.

It is interesting to note that, over the year since my last report, the proportion of unfit houses, has remained steady at roughly 14% of the total surveyed. This indicates more strongly than ever, a final figure, on completion of the survey, of about 180 to 200 houses likely to be considered unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost.

The Housing Act, 1949 became law during the last year. The main provisions of this Act were mentioned in my last report when it was in Bill form. It is too early yet to assess the value of the provisions of this Act in the betterment of the housing standard, but it does seem likely that the number of applications for grant aid in the improvement of property is likely to be very high and the results of the survey will be invaluable in dealing with such applications. For many years now, the problem of even maintaining the existing standard of housing, let alone raising it, has become more and more difficult, in view of the constantly rising costs of building work, and the low static level of rents in many parts of the district.

The survey also continues to provide increasing evidence of the great need for the provision of piped water supplies to houses, efficient drainage and conversion of old privies to the water carriage system.

COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME.

During the year 4 stone 3-bedroom type houses at Oswaldkirk and 19 Airey houses at Beadlam were completed and occupied. The remaining Airey houses on the Beadlam site will be ready for occupation early in the new year together with 2 stone houses at Harome.

The Council now own 168 houses—an increase of 60 during the post war period.

The magnitude of the task still to be faced, however, is demonstrated by the fact that to the families from a probable 180 to 200 unfit houses to be rehoused must be added 95 applicants for Council houses who do not occupy unfit houses—a rough total of 285 families.

The present schemes envisaged for a total of 66 houses will make some inroad into this figure, and there is also the unhappy possibility that, with the general lessening of spending power now taking place, some people may feel themselves unable to budget for the rent of new houses. When a tenant on a fairly low income level has been used to a total rent and rate charge of about 7/- a week, and is then faced with one of say 18/- to 19/-, financial considerations are apt to take precedence over the desire to enjoy

the greatly improved conditions offered by the new house: there is no doubt that tenants of houses, whether owned privately or by the Council, fail to appreciate the fact that a vast proportion of present day rents are uneconomical, and that a new house offering all modern facilities must automatically command a considerably higher rental.

The following tables set out the position at the end of the year.

Site	Type	No. Completed and Occupied
Beadlam	Airey	19
Oswaldkirk	Stone—3 bedroom	4
		—
Total		23

During the same period the following houses were completed and occupied under private enterprise.

Site	Type	No. Completed and Occupied
Hambleton	Stone	2
		—
Total		2

The following houses for the Council are nearing completion.

Site	Type	No.
Beadlam	Airey	1
Harome	Stone	2
		—
Total		3

In addition the following schemes were in course of preparation and building should commence on some of these sites early in 1950.

Site	Type	No.
Helmsley	Stone—4 bedroom	6
Helmsley	Stone—3 bedroom	10
Helmsley	Stone—2 bedroom	8
Ampleforth	Brick—3 bedroom	12
Pockley	Stone—3 bedroom	4
Stonegrave	Stone—3 bedroom	6
Newton East	Brick—3 bedroom	2
Gilling	Stone—3 bedroom	4
Beadlam	Brick—3 bedroom	10
Oswaldkirk	Stone—3 bedroom	4

The post-war programme is summarised as follows:—

Site	No.	Completed	Course of Erection	Proposed
Helmsley	41	17	-	24
Beadlam	36	25	1	10
Harome	8	6	2	-
Ampleforth	15	3	-	12
Gilling	8	4	-	4
Oswaldkirk	8	4	-	4
Sproxton	6	6	-	-
Pockley	4	-	-	4
Stonegrave	6	-	-	6
Newton East	2	-	-	2
	134	65	3	66

At the present time the Council own 168 houses situated in the following parishes:—

Parish	No.
Helmsley	68
Harome	16
Pockley	2
Beadlam	33
Old Byland	2
Ampleforth	29
Coulton	3
Cawton	1
Gilling	4
Sproxton	6
Oswaldkirk	4
Total	168

The repair and maintenance of these houses has proceeded steadily throughout the year. A mason was engaged by the Council, and a supply of tools and materials built up at the Depot. As a result of these steps, all repair and maintenance work, with the exception of plumbing and electrical work, is now carried out by direct labour. It will be seen from the itemised table of repairs that the amount of work falling within the range of the direct labour force constitutes by far the greater proportion of the work done.

The staff engaged on this work have, as in their other spheres of employment given a high standard of service, and it has been possible to carry out a much greater amount of work than was done previously, and to deal with urgent repairs much more speedily. Considerable works of maintenance on water and sewage schemes have also been carried out, and I feel satisfied that this venture is proving well worth while.

Defects to Council Houses remedied during the year:—

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	47
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective eaves, gutter and down spouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Paths repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Coppers renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water services repaired	...	...	...	...	...	30
Ball taps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	33
Boilers renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Electrical Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	17
Plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	27
Ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	60
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fences repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gate Posts renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 279

TEMPORARY HOUSING.

The Council continue to administer the Military Camp at Ampleforth on behalf of the Ministry of Health. An average of 14 family units of accommodation have been occupied.

The structures on this site have long outlived their satisfactory life, and the site as a whole, having regard to the poor condition of the huts, bad siting and lack of amenities can only be regarded as very unsatisfactory.

The problem facing the Council of rehousing the tenants on this site is now urgent, as the huts are in no fit condition to stand up to another winter, and repair, to any satisfactory degree, is impossible.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION.**(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

By the implementation of the relevant section of the Milk Act, 1944, responsibility for the supervision of milk producers premises passed from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on 1st October, 1949.

The Council, however, still remain responsible for the supervision of the distribution of milk by retail sale.

40 visits of inspection and advice were made in the area during the year, and a steadily increasing improvement in the condition of cowsheds was being obtained by the time control was handed over. It has been extremely disappointing to lose sight of this work at a time when so much progress was being made.

During the year, sampling of milk for bacteriological examination was carried out, and the following table indicates the results of the examinations.

Date.	Methylene Blue	Coliform
1-2-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
1-2-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
7-3-49	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
7-3-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
7-3-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
7-3-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
7-3-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
7-3-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
20-4-49	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
20-4-49	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
20-4-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
20-4-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
20-4-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
20-4-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
13-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
13-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
13-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
13-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
13-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
13-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27-6-49	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
15-8-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
15-8-49	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
15-8-49	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
15-8-49	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
15-8-49	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
15-8-49	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory

All the samples taken were from retailers in the area. It will be seen that in June, a batch of six samples shewed completely unsatisfactory results. These premises were visited frequently, early morning milkings were attended in each case, and advice on improvement of methods given. By the third batch of samples were taken in August a considerable improvement had taken place. Those producers still shewing very poor results were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at the time of the take-over. There are 29 Retail Purveyors of milk in the area.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The system of Centralised Slaughtering and Meat Distribution Scheme adopted by the Government continues, and no livestock is slaughtered for human consumption in this district. Local butchers draw their supplies from the Distributing Centre at Easingwold, and the supply has been satisfactory.

Butchers establishments in the area have been regularly visited and the standard of handling and storing of the meat has been good.

I would like again to express my conviction that some "decentralization" of the system of centralized slaughtering to permit the establishment of a central slaughterhouse in the area of each local authority is desirable. I feel sure that a considerable amount of time and transport would be saved and the services to the local population would be improved. In this area adequate and suitable premises are readily available.

SHOPS, STALLS & VEHICLES.

No meat is offered for sale from stalls in this district. Market stalls dealing with fish and vegetables are kept under supervision, as also are closed vehicles used for the sale of meat. Conditions have been satisfactory during the year.

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

There are 2 fried fish shops in the area and 7 hotels or restaurants. These have been visited and advice given where necessary. Conditions generally are good.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) Regulations 1947 and 1948.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. 4 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream. All deal in pre-packed varieties of the commodity.

FOOD POISONING.

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the area during the year.

SHELL FISH REGULATIONS.

No action has been taken during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

Four bakehouses in use in the area have been regularly visited and satisfactory conditions were found therein.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no designated Offensive Trades in the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

17 factories and workshops in the area were visited. Written notice was given in the case of one, to provide proper sanitary accommodation. This is to be provided in the near future as part of a general modernization programme at the works. There are no outworkers in the district.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following table sets out the particulars of the water supplies in the area of the Helmsley Rural District Council.

Name of Supply.	Owner	District Served.	Nature of Supply
Piethorne	Helmsley & Kirbymoorside Joint Water Committee	Harome, Beadlam, Wombledon, Pockley, Skiplam, & Nawton Towers.	Springs with gravitation by Cast Iron Mains.
Nunnington & Laysthorpe	do	Nunnington, Laysthorpe and Stonegrave.	Springs with gravitation
Helmsley Town	...Duncombe Park Estate.	Helmsley Town	Springs with gravitation
Rievaux	...Duncombe Park Estate.	Rievaux	Springs with gravitation
Carlton	...Duncombe Park Estate.	Carlton	Springs with gravitation
Sproxton	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Sproxton	Hydraulic Rams
Ampleforth	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Ampleforth	Springs with gravitation
Byland with Wass	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Wass	Springs with gravitation
Old Byland	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Old Byland	Hydraulic Rams
Hawnby	...Mexborough Estate	Hawnby	Springs with gravitation
Oswaldkirk	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Oswaldkirk	Artesian Well
Cawton	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Cawton	Hydraulic Rams
Gilling East	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Gilling East	Springs with gravitation
Coulton	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Coulton	Hydraulic Rams
Scawton & Cold Kirby	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Scawton, Cold Kirby & Hambleton	Hydraulic Rams
Thorp-le-Willows	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Thorp-le-Willows	Springs with gravitation
Wombledon	...Helmsley R.D.C. for Ministry of Health	Harome	Boreholes

There are still a few stand pipes in the area, but it is the Council's policy to ensure that wherever possible water be laid into houses, and the number of stand pipes is steadily decreasing. When the Rural Housing Survey is completed it will be possible to give accurate figures shewing the number of houses and persons still drawing their supplies from stand pipes.

The major portion of the population of the area derives its water from piped supplies serving Helmsley township and the various villages. Most of the outlying farms and houses are served by individual supplies, usually taken from small land springs, led to collecting tanks and piped into the house.

During the year new services were provided to 35 new and existing houses and in addition 5 services were extended or improved

EXTENSION TO WATER MAIN

During the year a 3" Cast Iron Main was laid through Dunombe Park for about 2450 yards to connect the Helmsley high level supply with the Sproxton system. The scheme was carried out by contract as an urgent emergency measure in view of the continued lack of local supply at Sproxton which had necessitated prolonged periods of leading by tender. This was considered the only practicable means of alleviating the shortage. The new main has been put into operation for short periods already and is proving satisfactory. The pump house in Beckdale which serves to lift the supply to the high level reservoir has been overhauled and is in working order.

ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of the water supplies by this authority together with those owned jointly by this local authority and the Kirkbymoorside Rural District Council is the responsibility of my Department. During the period under review 104 visits were made to the joint schemes and 303 to others—a total of 407 visits.

Owing to the long dry summer which prevailed during the year following a winter without snow, it was extremely difficult to maintain regular and sufficient supplies to all parts of the area.

The supplies are kept under constant supervision with the aid of three water bailiffs, and every effort is made to keep up, and where possible, improve, the supplies. A considerable amount of repair and improvement work was also carried out on the various schemes by the Council's own staff i.e. relaying of drive pipes to rams, rebuilding of brick chambers, etc.

The scheme to supply water on a Regional basis from the springs at Ness has advanced considerably during the year. Construction of the headworks (pump house) etc. is well advanced, and a good deal of the necessary piping has been delivered. The scheme, when completed, will enable the Council to take advantage of the supply to be made available by the Ryedale Water Board recently formed on a Regional basis which is composed of representatives from the following local authorities:—

Helmsley Rural District Council
 Kirbymoorside Rural District Council
 Flaxton Rural District Council
 Malton Rural District Council
 Easingwold Rural District Council
 Malton Rural District Council
 Malton Urban Rural District Council
 Pickering Rural District Council
 Pickering Urban District Council

This board will run mains from the Ness Springs to pass through the area of each constituent authority. The Council's Consulting Engineer has prepared a scheme for the local arrangements for distribution of this supply, and the scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

This whole scheme, when in operation will provide an ample supply of pure water for both domestic and agricultural purposes and will remove a long felt need in districts to which it has been difficult to maintain a reasonable supply.

During the year, great difficulty was experienced in maintaining supplies to Cawton, Laysthorpe, Nunnington, Ampleforth, Gilling East, Scawton, Cold Kirby and Sproxton. The position at Sproxton has already been mentioned and further difficulty is not expected to arise there.

Local Public Enquiries were held by the Ministry of Health regarding the acquisition by the Council of the Helmsley Town and Oswaldkirk supplies. Acquisition of these supplies is now almost complete.

Metering of supplies to non-domestic users has proceeded during the year. Repair and maintenance has been greatly facilitated by the use of the 10 cwt van.

This also applies to the maintenance work on the Council's housing estates.

QUALITY OF WATER SUPPLY.

None of the supplies in the area have a plumbo-solvent action. All are reasonably free from chemical contamination with the exception of Oswaldkirk which has a large iron content. It is not practicable to take any action in this matter.

The Helmsley and Piethorne water schemes are chlorinated by the installation of hyperchlorinators which have been satisfactorily used throughout the year except when lack of head rendered it impossible for the machines to operate.

Routine samples of the various water supplies in the district were taken, and despatched for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:—

Date	Place	Result.
4-2-49	Snilesworth	Satisfactory
4-2-49	Snilesworth	Unsatisfactory
12-2-49	East Moors	Unsatisfactory
9-3-49	Scawton & Cold Kirby	Satisfactory
10-3-49	Beadlam	Unsatisfactory
10-3-49	Helmsley	Unsatisfactory
10-3-49	Rievaulx	Unsatisfactory
17-3-49	Beadlam	Satisfactory
17-3-49	Helmsley	Satisfactory
19-5-49	Helmsley	Satisfactory
19-5-49	Ampleforth	Satisfactory
19-5-49	Gilling	Satisfactory
19-5-49	Piethorne Supply	Satisfactory
20-5-49	Sproxton	Unsatisfactory
20-5-49	Rievaulx	Unsatisfactory
30-6-49	Snilesworth	Satisfactory
30-6-49	Snilesworth	Satisfactory
1-7-49	Snilesworth	Unsatisfactory
8-8-49	Helmsley	Satisfactory
8-8-49	Helmsley	Satisfactory
8-8-49	Beadlam	Satisfactory

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is undertaken in all parishes of the Rural District excluding remote farms, on a fortnightly basis, and is carried out by direct labour.

The new Karrier C.K. 3, 10 cubic yards capacity Refuse Collecting Vehicle was delivered early in the year and went into service immediately. The older vehicle a Karrier Bantam is kept in reserve in case of breakdown. The amount of material to be dealt with increases yearly as new houses are built and occupied, and it is rapidly becoming a full time job for the staff of three men engaged on the work, leaving them little time for other duties.

All refuse is brought to the tip at Helmsley, those at Ampleforth and Gilling now being closed. It is disposed of by partially controlled tipping, and as I have pointed out in previous years the Helmsley tip is very near the stage when it will be of no further use.

The land available is practically all used, the tip is in an insanitary condition, and has been on fire for several years. It is also becoming unsafe for vehicular traffic.

The Council must now face the necessity of finding an alternative site for the disposal of refuse.

Regular work is undertaken to deal with fly and rodent infestations at the tip.

All Council houses in the area are supplied with sanitary dust bins and these are also available for purchase by private individuals from the Council's stock.

Constant attention is paid to the abolition of ashpits and other unsatisfactory forms of refuse storage and their replacement by proper dust bins.

During the year approximately 2100 tons of refuse were dealt with.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are at the present time four sewage disposal schemes in the area, namely, Helmsley, Oswaldkirk, Gilling East and Wombleton. The Council own the first named three, and act as agents for the Ministry of Health for the fourth, pending its acquisition by the Council.

The Oswaldkirk works have been well maintained during the year and have given complete satisfaction.

In Helmsley both sewers and works are in need of modernization. The present works are quite incapable of dealing with the quantity of sewage now flowing from the township, and many complaints regarding conditions there arise. A scheme of modernization is in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineer.

The plant at Gilling has been well maintained, and apart from some trouble with the electrical pumps, has given satisfaction. This scheme was taken over from the War Department and is, in its present state incomplete. The Council's Engineer is preparing a scheme for the completion of the scheme of sewers and sewage disposal for this village.

The Wombleton works have given satisfaction, and a scheme for the improvement of the works and the provision of new sewers to the townships of Beadlam and Harome in the Helmsley Rural District Council area and Nawton and Wombleton in the area of the Kirkbymoorside Rural District Council to discharge into these works was prepared some time ago under the direction of a Joint Committee of the two Councils, and is now in the hands of the Ministry of Health. It is very desirable that this scheme should go on, as much of the sewage from these villages discharges into open gutters, eventually discharging into the river Rye. These gutters are a constant source of nuisance and the efforts of my staff to abate this nuisance is greatly hampered by the lack of fall in this area.

Schemes for sewerage in the villages of Ampleforth and Sproxton are also in the hands of the Ministry of Health. Much good work in the area in connection with conversion of properties to water carriage system is being held up pending the provision of adequate sewers and sewage disposal works.

In many parishes of the area no sewerage facilities exist, and in these individual disposal plants are being laid down by an increasing number of owners. A good standard of plant, usually comprising septic tank and filter bed is being installed which should give effluents free from odour, colour, or a high proportion of suspended solids.

EXTENSION TO SEWER.

During the year, approximately 500 yards of 6" stoneware sewer was laid as an extension to the existing sewer at Beadlam to serve the new traditional and Airey houses constructed there.

All house drainage work has been inspected and tested when installed, and my staff have carried out a considerable amount of work in the cleansing of open ditches and septic tanks. Details are given below:—

Septic tanks cleansed	...	...	2
Choked drains cleared	...	...	13
Choked sewers cleared	...	...	4
Open sewers cleared	...	...	7

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Details of the number of privies converted to the water carriage system in the various parishes during the year are given in the following table:—

Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	...	2
Helmsley	...	...	...	...	3
Gilling	...	...	...	...	1
Coulton	...	...	...	...	1
Ampleforth	...	...	...	...	1
Cawton	...	...	...	...	1
Leysthorpe	...	...	...	...	1
Hawnby	...	...	...	...	1
Pockley	...	...	...	...	3
Total					14

During the same period additional W.C. accommodation was provided as follows:—

Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	8
Beadlam	...	...	...	38
Oldstead	...	...	...	4
Total				50

SALVAGE.

This work proceeded during the early part of the year only. Notification was received from the paper mills that, owing to changes in the market, they were unable to take any more waste paper. The Council's storage facilities were filled to capacity, and there was no alternative but to cease the collection of waste paper as salvage. There is a possibility that the mills may resume dealings soon, but the outlet for waste is much less assured than before, and it is impracticable to attempt spasmodic collections for salvage. Sales of waste during the year totalled £52/14/9.

RECHARGEABLE WORK.

Rechargeable services of a miscellaneous nature were rendered during the year, the income being £33/17/11. These services included such items as the cleansing of private drains, fumigation after cases not accepted as infectious disease, removal of trade refuse, etc.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The only set of Public Conveniences in the area are situated in Helmsley. These have been regularly maintained during the year, but are inadequate for the demands of the summer season when many motor coach parties pass through Helmsley. Accordingly a scheme was prepared some time ago to modernize the Conveniences and increase their capacity. A contract has now been signed and work should commence early in the New Year.

SHOPS.

No statutory action has been necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been found necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public baths or pools in this area.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 passed into the Statute Book and comes into force in March, 1950. This Act replaces, with modification the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919. Provision is made for the uniting of Districts to carry out the provision of the Act. The Council do not employ a Rodent Operator and it may be that the Council will consider it advisable to approach the project of appointing a full time Rodent Operator in conjunction with one or more adjoining districts in order to fulfill adequately their duties under the Act.

Although a Rodent Operator as such is not employed by the Council disinfection work to Council and private property has been carried out during the year by a member of the staff.

Council owned refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal works, and several open ditches were successfully treated during the year in order to comply with the requirements of the Ministry under schemes adopted by the Council.

HOUSE AND BUILDING PLANS.

The administration of the Building Bye-laws in force in the Rural Area has necessitated a large amount of work and many visits of inspection.

During the year the following plans for new building work were approved by the Council.

Helmsley	...	...	...	...	14
Hawnby	...	...	...	...	6
Bilsdale	...	...	...	...	1
Coulton	...	...	...	...	4
Rievaulx	...	...	...	...	1
Harome	...	...	...	...	4
Ampleforth	...	...	...	...	7
Elling East	...	...	...	...	3
Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	...	6
Pockley	...	...	...	...	4

Carlton	...	...	...	...	1
Oldstead	...	...	...	...	2
Cawton	...	...	...	...	1
Snilesworth	...	...	...	...	2
Old Byland	...	...	...	...	1
Leysthorpe	...	...	...	...	2
Stonegrave	...	...	...	...	1
Scawton	...	...	...	...	1
Total					61

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

A considerable amount of work has been necessary during the year in the administration of the regulations governing the Control of Civil Building.

During that time 24 applications for Building Licences were received and investigated and many visits were paid during the building operations.

The Licences issued during the year were as follows:—

Authority					No.
Helmsley R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	24
Ministry of Works	...	...	...	...	17

It is greatly to be regretted that the Government felt it necessary to reduce the allocation of new houses to Private builders from 1 in 5 of the area's general allocation to 1 in 10. There is, in my opinion, a very potent need for a reasonable proportion of private building to be carried out in this area. During the same period the ceiling of the total value of licences that could be issued was reduced by 20%. This again, is very much to be regretted, as it can only lead to further deterioration of existing properties.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the area have been visited regularly and on the whole no cause for complaint has arisen. Minor matters have been successfully dealt with.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen, I should like to record my appreciation of your guidance during the year and

to express my sincere thanks for the careful consideration and understanding you have shewn in all matters affecting the administration of my Department.

It is also my pleasure to record the willing help and co-operation so readily given me by Mr H. L. Bates, the Clerk to the Council and Dr. A. C. Blair, the Medical Officer of Health, and to thank Mr W. C. Ranson, the Additional Sanitary Inspector and other members of the Staff for their loyal co-operation in the discharge of their duties.

I am Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant.

F. W. STONEY, M.R.San.I, M.S.I.A,

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